

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Ferguson:

I am pleased to transmit the 2010 King County Energy Plan (Energy Plan). The Energy Plan establishes guiding principles, sets goals, and outlines strategies for improving energy efficiency and expanding the use and production of renewable energy.

The Energy Plan reflects the proposed King County Strategic Plan's emphasis on improving the efficiency of county operations, reducing the county's environmental footprint, encouraging a growing and diverse King County economy, and empowering employees to identify improvements. Implementation of the Energy Plan is also critical to meeting the county's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Energy Plan is the result of extensive, collaborative efforts on the part of departments throughout the county. This Energy Plan updates the county's 2007 Energy Plan and builds on King County Comprehensive Plan policies and past Executive Orders and legislation related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, green vehicles, and green building.

Since 2007, the county has initiated 46 major energy projects. Energy savings from these projects are expected to exceed \$2 million per year, and the county anticipates receiving an additional \$3.9 million in utility incentive payments from local utilities from these projects alone. These outcomes illustrate that strategic energy policy implementation can offer multiple benefits to the county: saving money while reducing environmental impacts, increasing asset values and improving working conditions.

The Plan also highlights key county energy projects that set the foundation for meeting the county's future goals. One of the highlighted projects is the new landfill-gas-to-energy project at the county's Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. Historically, methane produced from landfills has been treated as a waste product and burned. But a state-of-the-art facility cleans and converts the methane into pipeline-quality natural gas, and the project will produce more energy than any other county facility.

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Looking forward, the 2010 Energy Plan sets out goals for significantly reducing the county's energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, along with innovative strategies for achieving the Plan's goals.

The 2010 Energy Plan goals include:

- Producing, using or procuring renewable energy equal to 50 percent of total county energy requirements by 2015
- Reducing energy usage in county buildings by 10 percent by 2012
- Reducing energy use by county vehicles by 10 percent by 2015.

It is important to note the renewable energy goal in the 2010 Energy Plan encompasses both energy use *and* production. The past renewable energy goal focused only use of renewable fuels, and failed to take into account the environmental and economic benefits of using the waste byproducts of certain operations, like wastewater treatment and waste disposal, to produce renewable energy.

Implementing the Plan will enable the county to continue to provide value for our citizens through energy savings, while protecting our environment and the high-quality of life in this region. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Megan Smith, Environmental Policy Advisor in the Office of the King County Executive, 206-263-9605.

The County Council's leadership on these important issues has helped put King County at the forefront of energy efficiency and renewable energy. I urge the Council to continue that leadership by adopting the enclosed motion to approve the 2010 King County Energy Plan.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures:

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Tom Bristow, Chief of Staff

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Megan Smith, Environmental Policy Advisor, King County Executive Office

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Management and Budget and Office of Strategic
Planning and Performance Management

Bob Burns, Interim Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive
Services (DES)

Harold Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation

Kathy Brown, Director, Department of Transportation (DES)